

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJECT:PROPOSED BILLFISH MEETING JULY 11-13

REF: (A) STATE 127368, (B) TOKYO 8422

1. DEPT. AND DEPT. OF COMMERCE AGREE TO SUGGESTION OF YONEZAWA REPORTED REFTEL (B) THAT SCIENTISTS MEET BEFORE MAIN SESSION OF BILLFISH MEETING. HOWEVER, WE ARE UNABLE TO SCHEDULE MEETING BEFORE JULY 11. WE SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT MEETING OF SCIENTISTS TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON JULY 11 AND HALF DAY ON JULY 12 IF NECESSARY (SCIENTISTS HAVE ALREADY HAD PRELIMINARY MEETING). MAIN SESSION CAN THEN BEGIN ON JULY 12 AND RUN THROUGH JULY 14. WE SUGGEST THAT MEETING BEGIN AT 10:00 AM ON JULY 11.

2. REGARDING REQUEST BY YONEZAWA FOR DETAILS OF U.S.
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POSITION, POINTS MADE BY FISHATT PARA 2 REFTEL (B) ARE VERY WELL TAKEN. DEPT. BELIEVES GOJ WILL BE IN BETTER POSITION THAN USG TO DEVELOP DETAILED PROPOSALS BECAUSE OF JAPANESE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE ON NATURE OF LONG-LINE FISHERY AND STATUS OF STOCKS. FOLLOWING MAY BE HELPFUL TO GOJ, HOWEVER, INsofar AS IT DESCRIBES A U.S. POSITION: (1) MAIN PURPOSE OF MEETING WILL BE TO EXPLORE

WAYS OF REDUCING AND IN SOME AREAS AVOIDING JAPANESE CATCH OF BILLFISH INSIDE U.S. 200-MILE FISHERIES ZONE. U.S. ASSERTS MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY OVER BILLFISH BUT NOT TUNA; (2) SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW THIS MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED INCLUDE (A) RELEASE OF ALL BILLFISH CAUGHT INSIDE 200 MILES OF U.S., (B) PROHIBITION IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE SETTING OF LONGLINE HOOKS ABOVE A CERTAIN MINIMUM HOOK DEPTH, (C) PROHIBITION OF LONGLINING DURING CERTAIN TIMES AND SEASONS IN CAREFULLY DESCRIBED AREAS WHICH ARE OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO U.S. SPORTFISHERMEN OR WHERE BILLFISH CONCENTRATE OR SPAWN. (MANY DETAILS OF TIME AND AREA CLOSURES CAN PERHAPS BEST BE IDENTIFIED BY GOJ OR BY SCIENTISTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES).

3. OTHER MEASURES TO REDUCE BILLFISH CATCH BY LONG-LINERS WHICH AT THE SAME TIME ARE NOT AN UNDUE REGULATION OF TUNA FISHING MIGHT BE CONSIDERED. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY GOJ SUGGESTIONS IN THIS RESPECT.

4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR JAPANESE LONGLINERS WITH RESPECT TO BILLFISH CATCHES INSIDE 200 MILES WILL BE IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS. SOME KIND OF IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR JAPANESE LONGLINE VESSELS MIGHT ALSO BE CONSIDERED AT MEETING.

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5. MECHANISMS MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE FOR REGULAR SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE ON BILLFISH STOCKS AND REGULAR MEETINGS ON GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT LEVEL.

6. USG AND GOJ MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER AT MEETING MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF STOCKS THROUGHOUT THEIR RANGE INSOFAR AS SUCH MEASURES ARE FEASIBLE AND REQUIRED BY SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE ON STATUS OF STOCKS.

7. INCLUDED ON U.S. DELEGATION WILL BE REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS AND FISHING INDUSTRY. GOJ MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF JAPANESE LONGLINE FISHERY.

8. PLEASE ADVISE IF INTERPRETATION WILL BE NECESSARY FOR WASHINGTON MEETINGS.

9. PLEASE PROVIDE NAMES OF JAPANESE SCIENTISTS WHO WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. VANCE

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